

Public Health Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6146

AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF CERTIFICATION COURSES IN CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION AND EDUCATION AND TRAINING COURSES IN THE USE OF AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS AND

Title: THE ADMINISTRATION OF FIRST AID.

Vote Date: 3/22/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/4/2019

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Public Health Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill seeks to broaden the education and training programs for providing first aid and utilizing an automatic external defibrillator (AED). Furthermore, it aims to increase the cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training for lifeguards.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Commissioner Raul Pino, Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH): DPH is opposed to this legislation. The Department supports the expansion of education and certification programs for CPR and the use of automatic external defibrillators (AED), but cannot support the obligation to approve all courses. CPR education is currently required for Emergency Medical Services Personnel (EMS) though DPH has never been mandated to approve that aspect of the curriculum. There are a number of CPR education courses offered in Connecticut, both from local and national groups, which call for Department approval. Given existing resources, DPH would be unable to fulfill the approval procedure. The American Heart Association (AHA) and the American Red Cross (ARC) are experts in their fields and conduct ongoing research and provide information on the best practices. CPR and AED programs base their education on the findings of the AHA and the ARC.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Larry Newell, Vice President for Education Services and co-Medical Director, Ellis and Associates, Inc.: Ellis and Associates support this bill and request that the organization's CPR and AED courses are noted as equivalent to other training programs in Connecticut law. Ellis and Associates met with the Department of Public Health and the Office of Early Childhood in an attempt to obtain licensure. They were told that the agency did not have the authority to complete their request. Currently, there are four programs codified in Connecticut law that have the authority to issue certification. That list has not been updated since 2014. This legislation would enable DPH to approve organizations for certification authority as opposed to listing specific groups in statute. Ellis and Associates has been established for the last 33 years. They are the second largest provider of lifeguard training in the world with 40,000 individuals trained per year. Their clients range from water parks to colleges and universities. Their training curriculum is approved nationally and they are known to be a "company of firsts." The organization has collaborated with a number of other approved groups and has contributed to the state through manuals, student texts, and audiovisual materials. Furthermore, their program is continuously expanding and offered across the nation.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None submitted.

Reported by: Meagan Schantz

Date: 3/26/19